

MISS THERMO-METER.

I know of a restless young lass,
Who lives in a house made of glass,
And from her location,
Marks each variation
Of hot and cold waves as they pass.

When heat is announced she will spring
To quickly make note of the thing.

'Tis very surprising
That simply by rising
So true a report she can bring.

To self-elevation inclined,
She has such a volatile mind
That in every season
A suitable reason
For frequent depression she'll find.

Her temper mercurial thus
Creates everywhere such a fuss
That in conversation
Affairs of the nation
Are slighted this maid to discuss.

THE INDIAN "GHOST DANCES."

The dance commonly begins about the middle of the afternoon, or later, after sundown. When it begins in the afternoon there is always an intermission of an hour or two for supper. The announcement is made by the criers, old men who assume this office apparently by tacit understanding, who go about the camp shouting in a loud voice to the people to prepare for the dance. The preliminary painting and dressing is usually a work of about two hours. When all is ready the leaders walk out to the dance place, and facing inward join hands so as to form a small circle. Then, without moving from their places they sing the opening song, according to previous agreement, in a soft undertone. Having sung it through once they raise their voices to their fullest strength and repeat it, this time slowly circling round in the dance. The step is different from that of most other Indian dances, but very simple, the dancers moving from right to left, following the course of the sun, advancing the left foot, and following it with the right, hardly lifting the feet from the ground. For this reason it is called by the Shoshoni the "dragging dance." All the songs are adapted to the measure of the dance step. As the song rises and swells, the people come singly and in groups from the several tepes, and one after another joins the circle

until any number from fifty to five hundred men, women and children are in the dance. When the circle is small each song is repeated through a number of circuits. If large it is repeated only through one circuit, measured by the return of the leaders to the starting point. Each song is started in the same manner, first in an undertone, while the singers stand still in their places, and between the songs, more especially after the trances have begun, the dancers unclasp hands and sit down to smoke or talk for a few minutes. At such times the leaders sometimes deliver short addresses or sermons, or relate the recent trance experiences of the dancer. In holding each others hands the dancers usually intertwine the fingers instead of grasping the hand as with us. Only an Indian could keep the blanket in place as they do under such circumstances. Old people hobbling along with sticks, and little children hardly past the toddling period, sometimes form a part of the circle, the more vigorous dancers accommodating the movement to their weakness. Frequently a woman will be seen to join the circle with an infant upon her back, and dance with the others, but should she show the least sign of approaching excitement watchful friends lead her away that no harm come to the child. Dogs are driven off